

OPINION 894

THRIX DOHERTY, 1891 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA): DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Thrix* Doherty, 1891, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Neocheritra nisibis* de Nicéville, 1895, is hereby designated to be the type-species of that genus.

(2) The generic name *Thrix* Doherty, 1891 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Neocheritra nisibis* de Nicéville, 1895, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1876.

(3) The specific name *nisibis* de Nicéville, 1895, as published in the binomen *Neocheritra nisibis* (type-species of *Thrix* Doherty, 1891) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2340.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1768)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission by Lt.-Col. C. F. Cowan in July 1966. The application was sent to the printer on 16 August 1966 and was published on 20 December 1966 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 253–254. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184) and to eight entomological serials. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 19 August 1968 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (68)32 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 254. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 19 November 1968 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-two (22), received in the following order: China, Vokes, Munroe, Mayr, Holthuis, Uchida, Eisenmann, Obruchev, Mertens, Kraus, Lemche, Jaczewski, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Bonnet, Sabrosky, Ride, Binder, Brinck, Melville, Alvarado, Forest.

Negative votes—one (1): Simpson.

On Leave of Absence—one (1): Evans.

Commissioner do Amaral returned a late affirmative vote. In returning his negative vote, Dr. Simpson commented: "On Cowan's own showing, *nisibis* is a synonym of *cloella*. It would be absurd to make *nisibis* type without regard for its synonymy." In consequence, Commissioners were invited on 10 February 1969 to vote under the One-Month Rule on Voting Paper (O.M.) (69)3 for or against the proposal to add the specific name *cloella* Weymer, 1887, as published in the binomen *Hypolycaena cloella*, to the Official List as the oldest available name for the type-species of *Thrix* Doherty. At the close of

the prescribed voting period on 10 March 1969 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—eighteen (18), received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Simpson, Vokes, Alvarado, Tortonese, Lemche, Jaczewski, Ride, Melville, Obruchev, Bonnet, Binder, Mertens, Kraus, Brinck, Sabrosky, Mayr.

Negative votes—one (1): Eisenmann.

Voting Papers not returned—three (3): do Amaral, Evans, Munroe.

Commissioners Uchida and Starobogatov returned late affirmative votes, and Commissioner Forest returned a blank Voting Paper.

In returning his negative vote, Dr. Eisenmann wrote: "It seems to me that before voting on this—which is contrary to Cowan's proposal, in favour of which the Commission voted overwhelmingly—Cowan (a specialist) should be given an opportunity to answer Simpson's comment and explain any reasons he may have for favouring *nisibis* over *cloella*." The Secretary thereupon wrote to Col. Cowan to point out that, in fact, if *Sithon scopula* H. Druce, 1873, *Hypolycaena cloella* Weymer, 1887, and *Neocheritra nisibis* de Nicéville, 1895, are all synonymous, as seemed to be suggested in his application, then *scopula*, and not *cloella* or *nisibis*, should be added to the Official List. If, on the other hand, these three taxa are subspecifically distinct, then it does not matter which of the names has priority from the point of view of the present case. Col. Cowan replied, on 28 April 1969, that there are in fact four species-group taxa currently classified in *Thrix*—the three listed above and *Virgarina scopula sankilia* Fruhstorfer, 1913. These are not now regarded as synonyms at any level in the species-group, and a plausible case could be made for the generic separation of the two Borneo species (*scopula* and *sankilia*) from the other two. Since it is clear that Doherty defined his new genus *Thrix* on males of *nisibis* from Malaya that he misidentified as *gama*, and since *nisibis* is the oldest available name for the species in question, it is clear that there is no objection to placing that name on the Official List. In consequence, the vote on Voting Paper (O.M.) (69)3 is hereby cancelled and the result of the vote on Voting Paper (68)32 stands unaltered.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on Official Lists by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

nisibis, *Neocheritra*, de Nicéville, 1895, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 9 (3) : 316, pl. P, fig. 45

Thrix Doherty, 1891, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal* 60(2) : 35.

CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (68)32 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 894.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary

W. E. CHINA
Assistant Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

6 May 1969